



**SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS AND CAL STATE SAN
BERNARDINO BREAK GROUND ON NEW STUDENT UNION**

83,000 Square-Foot Facility to Carry Namesake of Tribal Leader, Santos Manuel

San Bernardino, Calif. and San Manuel Indian Nation – October 1, 2004 – Bird Singers, traditional Serrano prayers and blessings by San Manuel Band of Mission Indians tribal elders will mark the momentous groundbreaking of the new California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) student union at 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 8, 2004. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians members, university president Dr. Albert Karnig and CSUSB students will gather at the site of the new \$18 million Santos Manuel Student Union for a special ground breaking ceremony.

“An essential part the college experience is being introduced to different cultures and interacting with other students from different backgrounds,” Chairman Deron Marquez of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, said. “Our tribe has made education a priority among our people and our hope is that this new student union will help contribute to the educational experience of current and future CSUSB students.”

In March 2001, CSUSB students voted to increase student fees to expand the student union and construct a new student recreation center. Along with student fees, the construction of the new student union is funded by a \$3 million donation from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians – one of the largest gifts from a Native American tribe to any of the 23 California State University campuses.

“This new facility will be essential in serving the future students at Cal State San Bernardino,” university president Dr. Albert Karnig, said. “We are honored that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has made an investment in the future of this university and the future of Cal State’s students.”

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The expansion will more than double the existing size of the student union to 83,000 square-feet. The facility will provide larger dining areas with more restaurant choices; additional office space for student clubs and organizations; a 200-seat theatre for films, concerts and speakers, and is scheduled to be open to students when the fall 2005 quarter begins next September.

The union will be named in honor of Santos Manuel, a tribal leader who guided the Serranos from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Manuel Ranch, which eventually became the San Manuel Reservation in 1890. The tribe is an active supporter of Cal State San Bernardino and has earmarked part of the \$3 million gift to go to developing endowed scholarship and internship programs.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe in the way of monetary and bottled water donations for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

About California State University San Bernardino (PENDING INFORMATION FROM JOE GUTIERREZ)

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